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Monday, December 11, 2017 metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork



FEAR AND HUMOR

Seth Rogen plays on all our fears as he avenges the universe. 22

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SnoHub is basically the Uber of snowplows, and the app arrives just in time for the snow season. 8



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WELCOME TO METRO.US

MORGAN ROUSSEAU, MANAGING EDITOR

Inside today's Metro New York you'll find a heartwarming story about how ice cream is helping at-risk youth in the East Village, an argument for MTA fare increases (I know, I know), information on a new app that is basically the Uber of snow plows, and an in-depth analysis of President Trump's Diet Coke drinking habits. Good thing you picked up the paper, eh? But if you want even more Metro stories, visit our website metro.us. Thanks for reading.



NEW EVACUATIONS AS CALIF. WILDFIRES RAGE ON

1 The largest California wildfire advanced on coastal towns near Santa Barbara on Sunday, stoked by the gusty winds and dry conditions that have fueled destructive blazes across the state's southern region. Authorities ordered residents in parts of Carpinteria and Montecito to evacuate early on Sunday as the Thomas Fire edged closer to the city of Santa Barbara, about 100 miles west of Los Angeles.

The blaze has already blackened 155,000 acres and consumed hundreds of structures. Some half-dozen fires have raged across California since early last week. At least one home in Carpinteria burned down on Sunday, the Santa Barbara County Fire Department said. The fire was only 15 percent contained as of Sunday morning, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

PALESTINIAN STABS ISRAELI IN JERUSALEM

2 A Palestinian stabbed an Israeli security guard at Jerusalem's main bus station on Sunday, police said, and violence flared near the U.S. Embassy in Beirut over President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Four days of street protests in the Palestinian territories over Trump's announcement on Wednesday have largely died down, but his

overturning of long-standing U.S. policy on Jerusalem — a city holy to Jews, Muslims and Christians — drew more Arab warnings of potential damage to prospects for Middle East peace. "Our hope is that everything is calming down and that we are returning to a path of normal life without riots and without violence," Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said on Army Radio.

WINTER WONDERLAND

3 Central Park after the weekend snowstorm in New York City.

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

GETTY IMAGES

SCULPTOR CHOSEN FOR NEW DIANA STATUE

4 A sculptor who produced the image of Queen Elizabeth used on Britain's coins has been chosen to create a new statue of Princess Diana, the office of Princes William and Harry said on Sunday, to commemorate 20 years since her death. Ian Rank-Broadley, whose effigy of the Queen has appeared on all UK and Commonwealth coinage since 1998, will design the statue, which now will not

be unveiled until next year. "Ian is an extremely gifted sculptor and we know that he will create a fitting and lasting tribute to our mother," Prince William and his younger brother Harry said in a statement. In January, the brothers commissioned a statue in honor of their mother, who died in a Paris car crash 20 years ago to be erected outside their official London home Kensington Palace.

IRAQ HOLDS PARADE AFTER DEFEATING ISIS

5 An Iraqi military parade in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone celebrated final victory over Islamic State on Sunday, with Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi looking on as troops marched in formation, their bodies spelling "victory day" in Arabic. Abadi, who is also commander-in-chief of the armed forces, listened solemnly to Quranic verses from a chapter titled

al-Nasr, meaning victory. Iraqi forces recaptured the last areas still under Islamic State control along the border with Syria on Saturday and secured the western desert, marking the end of the war against the militants three years after they had captured about a third of Iraq's territory. The forces fighting Islamic State in Iraq and Syria now expect a new phase of guerrilla warfare.

TONY'S METRO MAGIC 2017



As we enter the season of giving, Metro asks that you donate to Tony's Metro Magic annual holiday toy drive to help underprivileged children in your community. You can donate by visiting metro.us/magic, clicking on the toy wish-list link of your choice, and ordering via a secure payment system. Toys will then be distributed to local children in need.

Roy Moore campaign casts Alabama race as referendum on Trump



Republican Senatorial candidate Roy Moore speaks during a campaign event. GETTY IMAGES

Opinion polls show a tight race between Moore, a 70-year-old conservative Christian and former state judge, and Democrat Doug Jones, a 63-year-old former U.S. attorney.

The campaign of Roy Moore, the Republican candidate for U.S. senator in Alabama who has been accused of sexual misconduct, appealed on Sunday to President Donald Trump's supporters, saying a vote for Moore would be a vote for Trump's agenda.

Dean Young, chief political strategist for Moore, cast Jones as a liberal who would vote against Trump's priorities such as building a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border and cutting taxes.

"If the people of Alabama vote for this liberal Democrat Doug Jones, they're voting against the president who they put in office at the highest level," Young told ABC's "This Week." "So it's very important for Donald Trump. ... If they can beat him, they can beat his agenda, because Judge Moore stands with Donald Trump and his agenda."

Moore has been accused of sexual misconduct toward women when they were teenagers and he was in his 30s, including one woman who said

he tried to initiate sexual contact with her when she was 14.

Moore has denied the misconduct allegations and said they were a result of "dirty politics." He has said that he never met any of the women involved. Reuters has not independently verified any of the accusations.

As the race tightens, Jones has cranked up his attacks on Moore over the allegations and made those charges central to his argument that Moore is an unsuitable choice.

The effort by the Moore campaign to align itself as closely as possible with Trump raises the stakes for the president in the Alabama race.

Trump has endorsed Moore and praised him on Friday at a rally in Pensacola, Florida, near the Alabama state line. The president's support of Moore came despite efforts by other senior Republicans, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, to distance themselves from Moore.

Alabama voters went strongly for Trump in last year's presidential election, favoring him by 62 percent to 34 percent over Democrat Hillary Clinton.

The growing wave of women reporting abuse or misconduct has brought down powerful men, from movie

producer Harvey Weinstein to popular television personality Matt Lauer.

Republican leaders have said that if Moore wins, he could face an immediate investigation by the Senate Ethics Committee.

Republican Richard Shelby, the senior U.S. senator from Alabama, said on CNN's "State of the Union" that he did not vote for Moore and instead backed a write-in candidate.

The editorial board of the AL.com website, which covers Alabama news, has endorsed Jones. In an editorial on Sunday, the website urged conservative voters in Alabama to follow Shelby's lead and consider a write-in candidate if they did not want to vote for Jones.

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President Donald Trump GETTY IMAGES

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Shelby Fonseca, 21, is one of five youth employees that range in age from 16 to 21 at Alphabet Scoop. ALL PHOTOS NIKKI M. MASCALI

Alphabet Scoop changes young staff's lives with ice cream

A program of Father's Heart Ministries, the 15-year-old East Village ice cream shop teaches at-risk youth valuable job — and life — skills.

NIKKI M. MASCALI
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New York City is a hotbed of artisanal ice cream shops, and like many of them, Alphabet Scoop makes everything in-house.

But the creamy goodness at the 15-year-old shop on East 11th Street isn't just homemade, it's homegrown, too, as the majority of its workers are at-risk youth from the nearby community.

Alphabet Scoop opened in 2002 as a youth job-training and life-skills program of The Father's Heart Ministries, which is next door, to give them the tools they need to succeed in the future.

"I think we lost our way on the value of a person and giving him or her the tools — nobody wants to be patient for them to develop, and that's where the turnover is happen-

ing in many industries," said Robbie Vedral, manager of Alphabet Scoop. "Most of the challenges are life skills — these are inner-city kids that are challenged in many different ways. Adult, heavy stuff is being laid on them at a really early age."

Hands-on training ranges from learning the importance of arriving not just on time but early and rising above outside forces to adhering to strict food-safety regulations.

But for Shelby Fonseca, one of Alphabet Scoop's five youth employees, the most important skill so far was learning to "talk so much more," the 21-year-old said. "It gives me the confidence in my own self."

"Shelby has done a tremendous job from where she was. You can see her personality is just very infectious, she's very engaged with the customers in a way she wasn't in the very beginning," Vedral said. "She's one of the successes we've had here. I'm really proud."

If a current crowdfunding campaign reaches its \$70,000 goal before it ends Dec. 31, Vedral hopes to take Alphabet Scoop's training — and its

"I think we lost our way on the value of a person and giving him or her the tools — nobody wants to be patient for them to develop, and that's where the turnover is happening in many industries."

Robbie Vedral



Shelby Fonseca, left, and Robbie Vedral

date its technology.

"If we get newer stuff, I can really teach these kids, really dig into how to manage inventory and the business better to show them real numbers and if you over-scoop or under-scoop, what that does to the bottom line," Vedral said.

As of Friday afternoon, the campaign had raised more than \$41,000 tax-deductible donations toward its \$70,000 goal. Free scoops (with "all the sprinkles you want!") and quarts, T-shirts and totes and a private ice cream party are among the perks of donating.

To learn more about Alphabet Scoop, visit fathersheartnyc.org/alpha-bet-scoop. To donate to the campaign, visit chuffed.org/project/alphabetscoop.

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WHY MTA FARE HIKES MAKE SENSE

Any public official, MTA board member or transit advocate who opposes planned subway fare hikes in 2019 and 2021 misses the reason why they are needed.

Over the past 53 years since the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, over \$120 billion dollars in combined city, state and federal taxpayers generated dollars have subsidized both the capital and operating costs for the MTA and its various operating agencies.

For decades, under numerous past MTA five-year capital plans starting in 1981, both the city and state collectively cut billions of their own respective financial contributions. They repeatedly had the MTA refinance or borrow funds to acquire scarce capital funding formerly made up of hard cash from both City Hall and Albany. On a bipartisan basis, this included past Govs.

LARRY PENNER

Analysis

Larry Penner is a transportation historian and advocate who previously worked 34 years for the U.S. Department of Transportation.



Billions are still needed from both the state and city to make up for past MTA cuts, and a fare hike may be the solution.
GETTY IMAGES

Mario Cuomo, George Pataki, Elliot Spitzer and David Patterson. Gov. Andrew Cuomo has only made available \$2.5 billion of the \$8.3 billion leaving a balance of \$5.8 billion he promised toward funding the \$32 billion MTA 2015-2019 capital Program Plan plus \$1 billion more in new funding

to deal with this past summer's subway and LIRR Penn Station crises. NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio still owes most of his \$2.5 billion contribution toward the same program.

Billions more are still needed from both the state and city to make up for past cuts over previous decades. Ev-

eryone insisted that the MTA continue financing more and more of the capital program by borrowing. As a result, 17 percent of the annual MTA budget goes for covering the costs of debt service payments. By the next MTA 2020-2024 Capital Program Plan, this will continue to grow closer to 20

percent. This means less money is available for operations to provide more frequent service to riders. It also means there is less money just to maintain the state of good repair and safety. At the end of the day, the cupboard may be bare for any system expansion.

Contrast City Hall

and Albany with Washington. Federal support for transportation has remained consistent and growing over past decades. When a crises occurred be it 9-11 in 2001 or Hurricane Sandy in 2012, Washington was there for us. Additional billions in assistance above and beyond yearly formula allocations from the Federal Transit Administration was provided. In 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided billions more.

Most federal transportation grants require a 20 percent hard-cash local share. In many cases, the Federal Transit Administration accepted toll credits instead of hard cash local share. This saved the MTA \$1 billion in the previous 2010-2014 five-year capital program.

Even more will be saved under the \$32 billion 2015-2019 five-year capital program.

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Windows Hello: the password is you.



Windows 10 Pro

SnoHub app brings plow services to you on demand

Founder James Albis says his business is bringing the ease of Uber to snow removal.



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For people living in the city or the suburbs, the winter season comes with the responsibility of shoveling your driveway and clearing off your steps all by yourself.

To James Albis, dealing with snow is one of the biggest pains of the winter season, so he came up with a solution: a way to order snow-plow service on demand through an app.

SnoHub, which Albis says is the "Uber of snow

plows," works in a similar way to the ride-share service. The app connects people to nearby contractors and alerts those contractors of snow removal needed in the area.

Once the contractor accepts the job, the user can track the plow's movements through an in-app map. When contractors arrive at each site, they take before-and-after pictures, proving the job is done, and then the homeowners pays through the app.

SnoHub launched last year just in Fairfield County, Connecticut, where Albis lives. This winter, the service is launching in the New York City, Philadelphia and Boston metro areas, among others.

It wasn't just clearing

snow that inspired Albis, but the way he's interacted with plow contractors in the past. He has had frustrating experiences, he said, waiting hours for a plow to come to his house, being asked to pay in cash and not getting the job done completely.

"When you're living in a tech world and all of a sudden you're forced to step back 40 years ago, it's a problem. ... I said, 'Clearly, there has to be a better way,' and I looked at companies that have been disruptive, like Uber," he said.

"People in this day and age only want to pay for what they use — they want to do things on their own terms, based on their own life, not based on when it's con-



The SnoHub app aims to change the way people manage snow at their homes. At right: James Albis started SnoHub. SNOHUB/FACEBOOK, PROVIDED

venient for a snow-plow contractor."

The contractors deployed through SnoHub are vetted through the company and verified to have the proper licensing, insurance and background. Albis said SnoHub is also giving people the opportunity to earn extra income in the winter.

"If you're a painter, electrician, a firefighter — a lot of these guys have pickups and plows,

and they want to earn some extra money," he said. "By introducing all these new guys who are very idle in the winter time, we helped out so many different types of people last winter get through it."

As with Uber, SnoHub does take a bit of the cut from contractors' pay: a 30 percent fee on transactions. For the customer, prices start at \$59 for 3 inches of snow, increasing with



every inch, and they can see the price estimate before they book their service.

Regular plow contractors will still have work, Albis said, because their business comes from commercial accounts. By catering to residences, he's hoping to make handling the winter more convenient for homeowners.

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Metro's wish lists include toys for infants through pre-teen children. NIC CZARNECKI

Tony's Metro Magic toy drive is nearing its end

Metro makes it easy to donate with quick links to toy wish lists at Metro.us/magic.



MORGAN ROUSSEAU
@metromorgan
morgan@metro.us

There is still time to donate to Metro's annual toy drive by visiting [metro.us/magic](http://Metro.us/magic) and ordering through our secure Target wish lists.

The annual toy drive, dubbed Tony's Metro

Magic, helps underprivileged children in your community.

Gifts range from under \$5 and up. Toys are delivered to our Metro offices in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia through Dec. 15, then distributed to local charities that serve underprivileged children in those cities.

For those donating in New York, toys will go to the Coalition for the Homeless, then distributed to local children. Boston's Heading Home Inc. will receive the toys for that city, and Philadelphia's toys will go to the Institute for the Development of African-American Youth (IDAAY).

If you wish to donate, you can choose the toys, pay online, and your gifts, along with your name attached, will be automatically delivered. The wish lists include toys for infants through pre-teens.

This year marks the eighth anniversary of the toy drive, which is named after Tony Metcalf, Metro's longest-serving editor in chief. Mr. Metcalf oversaw the project for more than four years before passing away in 2013.

Mr. Metcalf lit up every year as he saw the faces of children unwrap their holiday gifts, and it's our goal to keep that magic alive.

"Tony felt we should use the size and scale of Metro to help others and he used enormous dedication and force to execute the project and every year make children in need a little happier during the holiday season," said Metro Chief Executive Officer Yggers Mortensen.

"I am proud to continue this project in honor of Tony, and I hope all our readers, suppliers and members of the Metro team will help to make this yet another great Metro Magic year."

Metro is grateful for the toys already received at our offices. They're stacked in the newsroom, and each day the pile grows. We thank readers in advance for remembering the children who will spend the holidays in shelters or who may not have presents to open.

The last day to order toys is this Friday Dec. 15.



This year marks the eighth anniversary of Metro's annual holiday toy drive.
NIC CZARNECKI

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DIET COKES & TV BINGES – NO WONDER THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH IS SLURRED

Do you have any idea what eight hours of television and a dozen Diet Cokes — a day! — can do to a 71-year-old brain? Sure, you do. We've all had 324 days (and counting) to witness the tragic results.

Late last week, lots of people were alarmed at Donald Trump's slurred words during a policy address about Jerusalem. "God bless the United Shhh-tates," the president woozed, and Twitter went crazy.

Was it ill-fitting dentures? Was it a momentary brain fart? Was it 120 ounces of aspartame-infused, caramel-colored, fizzy-water sloshing inside the poor man's belly? While others warned of something more neurologically profound, White House spokesman Raj Shah responded dismissively: "His throat was dry. There's nothing to it."

Believe that if you want to. But the howling was loud enough that White House officials did promise that Trump will get a head-to-toe medical exam early next year at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, just like normal presidents do.

All we've had to go on so far is a 2015 letter from Trump's longtime personal physician, named Dr. Harold Bornstein, who asserted that his paunchy patient would "unequivocally" be "the healthiest individual ever elected to the presidency."

Yeah, right.

Now that the real doctors are in, the next question will be whether their exam reports will ever be released to the public

ELLIS HENICAN

Opinion

Ellis Henican is a seasoned observer of the nation's political and social landscape. He has appeared as a commentator on CNN, MSNBC and Fox News. He is a former columnist at Newsday. Follow him @henican.



— or held in permanent limbo like the president's tax returns. We shall see.

In the meantime, there is no stopping Trump watchers from drawing their own conclusions based on the president's erratic behavior and common sense. Judd Apatow is only the latest to weigh in.

Speaking at 92Y on Manhattan's Upper East Side, the prolific director, who has worked with thousands of actors at a wide variety of throat-lubrication levels, called the dry-mouth assertion utterly preposterous. Apatow's personal experience tells him something far more serious is happening here.

"My grandmother, who's 94 and in assisted living, talks like that," he said. "I certainly love her but would also not want her to be the president."

DO YOU AGREE?

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President Trump's health has again been called into question. GETTY IMAGES

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Baby Boomers Benefitting From Knee Arthritis Treatment

How Cutting-Edge Treatment And The NYC Pain MD "X" Factors Are Helping

New York City - Nothing is more true. A life with constant pain is not a life worth living. And if you can't stay active and do all the things you love - like walking, playing golf, tennis, vacationing etc. It's not really a life at all.

...the Pain Is More Like A Prison

And for generations, knee arthritis has given good, hard working people a life sentence of pain and suffering. To make things worse, slick marketers only add to the pain by promising wonder cures. Late night television and your mail box are filled with "wonder arthritis cures" that make wild claims and sound too good to be true . . . **Because They Are**

Nothing is worse than getting your hopes up - spending your hard earned money - only to be let down time after time.

It is easy to give up...

But while marketers were peddling "wonder cures," real doctors and researchers were hard at work trying to discover a real medical solution. Modern medicine eradicated small pox and polio. Through laser eye surgery, doctors can give almost blind people perfect 20/20 vision. The potential cures on the horizon with breakthroughs like stem cell and regenerative therapies are endless.

Solve The Riddle Of Arthritis Pain?

For the past 3 years, that's exactly what a medical clinic in New York City has been doing. The **NYC Pain MD** doctors have been able to help thousands of knee arthritis sufferers with cutting-edge treatments and technology older generations could only dream about. One of these treatments in particular has helped thousands of patients ease or eliminate pain and go back to doing their favorite activities like: walking, playing golf, tennis and many more. The treatment is called viscosupplementation. *But wait.* This is NOT the typical viscosupplementation. So if you are one of the many knee arthritis sufferers who already had viscosupplementation and did not get great results - what you are about to discover should be very important, to you in particular. It might even get you out of pain.

Here is why: During viscosupplementation, a special lubricating gel is put directly into your arthritic knee joint. This not only helps the knee joint to glide more smoothly, it acts as a cushion, protects the joint, and relieves a lot of pain. This is often referred to as "joint oil." In many cases, when done properly, this can dramatically lessen knee pain for up to 6 months and much longer in many cases.

And even better - if this treatment works for you the first time - it can be safely repeated when necessary and the results are often better for some.

Like Threading A Needle?

The key to this treatment being successful is actually getting the special lubricating gel directly into the joint where it can go to work. That's why the doctors at **NYC Pain MD** use very advanced digital imaging that allows them to see directly into the joint and make sure the lubricating gel "hits the spot" and the treatment has the best odds for success. Studies show that doctors doing these types of procedures without this special imaging actually miss the joint space up to one third of the time!



"I've had trouble with my knee walking. I'm a golfer and want to play golf but I couldn't. I made the call and went and it's the best thing I ever did. It's just - now I can play golf, I can walk, I can climb stairs, I can do things I did many years ago".

"It's the smartest thing ever did" "Since I've been going for the treatment for my knees I don't take any pills, I take not over the counter medication.."

"This a good alternative to surgery." "I am so glad I went. I'm so confident I feel so good about it and I recommend It to everybody." William La Spina . Golf Enthusiast

(While **NYC Pain MD** cannot say all patients will respond like this we can say they are possible. Every patient is individual and results will vary, patient to patient.)

Why Treatment Can Fail

This is why viscosupplementation can fail for some people. It is also why many knee arthritis sufferers come to **NYC Pain MD** after failed treatments elsewhere... and are finally able to get relief. It is not uncommon for patients to travel hours for the advanced treatments given at **NYC Pain MD**.

Patients Should Be Assured About Precision Treatments

ONE BIG MISTAKE we have heard about is to use digital imaging or ultra-sound to mark the knee and then shut off the imagining and then not use it during the treatment procedure!!! **This means the doctor did not actually see if the lubricating gel went exactly where it was intended.** The only way to know for sure if the procedure was as accurate as possible - and the lubricating gel went precisely into the joint space - is to use the digital imaging **during the entire procedure.** You can actually see the lubricating gel as it goes where it is needed. **If you did not actually see it on the imaging screen - you do not know for sure if you actually got the proper treatment applied to the damaged area.**

If you have already had this procedure without this advanced imaging... Or if it was not used throughout the procedure, there is a good chance you did not get the maximum results you could and should have received.

"Clearly, technology is only as good as doctors using it ... and clearly experience matters"

That's why, if you need heart surgery, you go to a heart surgeon... Not a general practitioner. At **NYC Pain MD** you will be seen by doctors who are specially trained in this procedure... Do it every day... and see thousands of patients every year. The latest technology combined with experienced and skilled doctors gets the best results possible. You will not be treated by a nurse or physician's assistant ...but always by a highly trained doctor

Who Is This Treatment For?

This treatment is not for everyone. But it is for a lot of people who suffer with knee arthritis. Especially if you would like to avoid total knee replacement surgery and possibly lessen or eliminate your pain. This treatment

Treatments Their Parents Could Only Dream About

Knee Arthritis Sufferers Throughout The Tri-State Area Get Back On Their Feet

may help you if you have knee pain due to arthritis. It may also help you if you do not have dramatic signs of arthritis on x-ray. Studies show that arthritis is present long before it can be seen on x-ray. In fact, the sooner you start this treatment the better. So, if you have knee pain - seeing one of the specially trained medical doctors at **NYC Pain MD** could be the answer you are looking for. **This is important - this is especially for you if you have had viscosupplementation in the past without good results.**

Many patients who did not have good results elsewhere are often able to get a very favorable results because of the advance technology and procedure experience at **NYC Pain MD**

In fact some patients have decided to cancel knee surgery and others go back to a active lifestyle they had before it was stolen by all the pain.

How to Find Out If They Experts At NYC Pain MD Can Help You

If you have knee arthritis pain and would like to see if this treatment might help you - the experts at **NYC Pain MD** offer a complimentary screening appointment.

This screening will help determine if you are a candidate for treatment and also gives you a chance to get your questions answered.

If you are a candidate, you will leave knowing that you found the possible way to lessen or even eliminate your knee pain for 6 months or more for many patients.

There is no obligation and if you are not a candidate - the doctor will help you find the best doctors and treatments for your individual case and refer you to the proper sources. To set up a complimentary screening, just call **800-741-5340**

The NYC Pain MD 'X" Factor ? ... Reduced Cost, Time And Stress

NYC Pain MD is a high-tech medical facility equipped with all the necessary equipment to treat appropriate candidates right in it's own in-office procedure suites. What does this mean for you? It means no stressful hospital, no intimidating surgical center or out patient facility visits. Your experience is far more relaxing with personalized attention. This also means you don't have to be "Rich and Famous" because by avoiding all those "fancy" facilities you don't have to bear their severe costs which can be several times the cost of the treatments themselves.



The Secret To Knee Pain Relief? With advances in medial science and technology the doctors at **NYC Pain MD** have been able to help thousands relieve their pain and get their active lifestyle back.

How To Get A No-Cost Screening & Find Out If This Knee Arthritis Treatment Is For You

The popularity of this treatment is startling. **NYC Pain MD** receives hundreds of patients calls weekly... patients looking for options other than surgery that really work. But because this is a real medical treatment - it is not for everyone. That's why the experts have setup an easy screening visit.. This screening will help determine if you are a candidate for additional examination

and treatment. This screening is offered at no cost to the patient. All your questions answered and you will find out if this treatment is for you. Zero risk or obligation. Just call **800-741-5340**. Tell them, "I would like the knee screening." They will take care of everything. Due to demand, spots are limited - call immediately to avoid unnecessary waiting. The number to call is: **800-741-5340**

The secret to success: Technology with Caring Doctors: NYC Pain MD combines cutting edge technology with highly trained professional and caring staff to help knee arthritis sufferers.

To set up a complimentary screening, just call **800-741-5340**. But if you want a screening, we recommend calling right now. Due to time limitations, the center can only offer a limited number of screening per month. They decided to limit the number because they believe in the giving every patient the individual time they deserve.

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The MAGA Christmas ornament is made of brass and allegedly covered in 14-karat gold. COURTESY OF AMAZON

Amazon reviews of Trump's MAGA ornament bring seasonal joy

"One star. Not safe if you have cats in the house."



MICHAEL MARTIN
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

It's the new seasonal tradition, akin to opening one present on Christmas Eve or watching "It's a Wonderful Life": Gathering friends on iMessage to read the scathing Amazon reviews of President Donald Trump's MAGA Christmas ornament.

The ornament, shaped like one of Trump's red MAGA ballcaps, is made of brass then allegedly covered in 14-karat gold. It's available from a number of sellers from \$96 to \$139.95. "This ornament is sure to make any tree stand out," the description reads.

As of Sunday, the average rating is 3.5 stars. Here are some of the most insightful reviews:

"Comes with an accompanying set of handcuffs. I was not impressed. I like ornaments that aren't under investigation."

"For some reason after adorning our Christmas tree with this as a joke, the tree took on a life of its own and kept trying to

"Despite ordering a more reasonable ornament, this one arrived. It. Is. Yuge. It's absolutely yuge. It's the biggest ornament. Yuge. I hung it on my tree, but it is so yuge that it has totally unbalanced my whole tree..."

Customer review

groped the cat. This ornament is a bad hombre."

"Fantastic! I heard this ornament was being considered for 'Ornament of the Year' by Ornament Magazine, but they wanted a long interview and photo session, so it said 'No Thanks.' SAD!"

"The other ornament wasn't perfect, but it was perfectly qualified for its position. ... I had requested a different ornament, but for some reason, my college elected to get this one in its place. I don't understand."

"The other ornament wasn't perfect, but it was perfectly qualified for its position on my tree; much more qualified than the one I ended up with."

"I put this on my shelf next to my Russian nesting doll ornaments,

which have embraced it with open arms and tiny hands."

"I put this ornament on my tree. The next night, more people attended my Christmas party than any Christmas party in American history. The photos don't show that because they were taken before all the guests got there."

"Despite ordering a more reasonable ornament, this one arrived. It. Is. Yuge. It's absolutely yuge. It's the biggest ornament. Yuge. I hung it on my tree, but it is so yuge that it has totally unbalanced my whole tree. No matter where I hang it, the tree leans waaaaay over to the far right!"

"Received this as a gag gift - and it keeps working. Every. Single. Day."

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Varicose veins are more than a cosmetic problem. They may lead to complications such as Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) and Pulmonary Embolism (PE), both of which claim up to 300,000 lives a year in the United States.

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Haley: Women accusers should be heard, even if Trump is target

Washington has been roiled by sexual misconduct scandals, with accusations leading to the resignations last week of three members of Congress.



Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations GETTY IMAGES

Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said on Sunday that any woman who has felt violated or mistreated by a man has every right to speak up, even if she is accusing President Donald Trump.

"Women who accuse anyone should be heard," Haley said on CBS's "Face the Nation." "They should be heard, and they should be dealt with."

The growing wave of women reporting abuse or misconduct has brought down powerful men, from movie producer Harvey Weinstein to popular television personality Matt Lauer.

Haley, discussing that cultural shift, applauded the women who have come forward: "I'm proud of their strength. I'm proud of their courage."

Asked how people should assess the accusers of the president, Haley said, it was "the same thing."

More than 10 women have accused Trump of sexual misconduct before he was president.

While filming a segment of the television program "Access Hollywood," he talked about kissing and groping women.

Trump has denied the misconduct allegations, although he apologized for his comments, which he called "locker room" talk.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said on Thursday that sexual harassment allegations against Trump were addressed by the American people when they voted him into office in November 2016.

Asked whether Trump's election settled the matter, Haley said:

"That's for the people to decide. I know that he was elected, but

women should always feel comfortable coming forward, and we should all be willing to listen to them."

On Tuesday, voters

in the heavily Republican state of Alabama will cast their ballots in a race involving Republican Roy Moore, a former state judge, and Democrat Doug Jones, a former U.S. attorney.

Moore has been accused of sexual misconduct toward women when they were teenagers and he was in his 30s. One woman said he tried to initiate sexual contact with her when she was 14.

Reuters has not independently verified the accusations, which Moore, a conservative Christian, has denied.

Many Republicans, including Alabama's senior U.S. senator, Richard Shelby, have distanced themselves from Moore. But Trump has endorsed him, saying he wants to see the Senate seat stay in Republicans' hands.

REUTERS

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GREAT BRITAIN

Former British celebrity publicist Max Clifford dies in prison

Britain's best-known publicist, Max Clifford, died on Sunday after collapsing in prison, where he was serving an eight-year sentence for indecently assaulting teenage girls in the 1970s and 1980s.

Britain's justice ministry said he had died in hospital. "As with all deaths in custody there will be an investigation by the independent Prisons

and Probation Ombudsman. Our condolences are with Mr. Clifford's family at this difficult time," a prison service spokeswoman said in a statement.

The BBC said it understood that the 74-year-old had collapsed in his cell on Thursday while trying to clean it, then again the following day.

Clifford's conviction in 2014 was the first from an inquiry into historical sex abuse triggered by reports that the late BBC TV presenter Jimmy Savile



Max Clifford GETTY IMAGES

had been a prolific sex offender for decades.

Clifford, whose clients had included TV music mogul Simon Powell and U.S. boxer Muhammad Ali, was found guilty of eight counts of indecently assaulting four girls aged 14 to 19 between 1977 and 1984.

He had denied all charges, saying the allegations were "utterly repulsive" lies by fantasists and opportunists.

REUTERS

After Brexit, UK aims for trade deal with EU that tops Canada pact



Theresa May, U.K. prime minister, gestures while speaking during a news conference at the European Commission building in Brussels, Belgium. GETTY IMAGES

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Despite Davis striking a confident tone, EU officials say they will only launch negotiations on a legally binding treaty after Britain leaves and becomes a "third country," according to draft negotiating guidelines.

After securing an initial agreement on Friday to move Brexit talks to a second phase, Prime Minister Theresa May is keen to start discussing future ties with the EU, and especially the type of trading agreement to try to offer greater certainty for businesses.

"It's not that complicated, it comes right back to the alignment point. ... We start in full alignment, we start in complete convergence so we can work it out from there," Davis told the BBC's Andrew Marr show.

"The thing is how we manage divergence so it doesn't undercut the access to the market," he said, describing his preferred deal as "Canada plus plus plus".

The EU has been considering a post-Brexit

free trade deal with Britain along the lines of one agreed last year with Canada.

But the UK economy is nearly twice the size of Canada's and British officials have said that their current alignment with EU standards and much closer trading links with the continent give them scope for an even deeper relationship.

May has been hailed by many in her deeply divided Conservative party for rescuing the agreement to unlock the Brexit talks by offering EU member Ireland and her allies in Northern Ireland a pledge to avoid any return of a hard border.

By playing with the wording, May agreed that if the two sides failed to agree on an overall Brexit deal, the United Kingdom would keep "full alignment" with those rules of the EU's single market that help cooperation between Ireland's north and south.

Davis described the commitment as more of a "statement of intent" than a legally binding measure — something that might reassure hardline Brexit campaigners who fear that it could imply that Britain was leaving the EU in name only. REUTERS



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Call 511 and say "Current Service Status," look for informational posters in stations, or visit **mta.info** – where you can access the latest Planned Service Changes information, use TripPlanner⁺, and sign up for free email and text alerts.

10 Celebrities who used gestational surrogates

Many famous women have opened up about their struggles with infertility, from Kim Kardashian to Tyra Banks. Today, we're highlighting celebrities who have opted to use gestational surrogates. **METRO**

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

**Angela Bassett**

The actress and husband Courtney B. Vance welcomed twins Slater Josiah and Bronwyn Golden via surrogate in 2006, after years of failed fertility treatments.

**Camille Grammer**

The "Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" star welcomed her two children with "Frasier" alum Kelsey Grammer — Jude Gordon and Mason Olivia — via surrogate.

**Elizabeth Banks**

The "Hunger Games" actress and her husband, Max Handelman, have welcomed two sons via surrogacy: Felix and Magnus.

**Ellen Pompeo**

The "Grey's Anatomy" actress welcomed her second child via surrogate in 2014, and announced the news on Instagram.

**Kim Kardashian**

The reality star and her husband, Kanye West, opted for a surrogate to welcome their third child, due in January, after Kardashian's two high-risk pregnancies.

**Lucy Liu**

In 2015, the "Elementary" star introduced her son, Rockwell Lloyd Liu, via Instagram. Her rep confirmed to Us Weekly that he had been carried by gestational surrogate.

**Nicole Kidman**

After the "Big Little Lies" actress gave birth to daughter Sunday in 2008, she and husband Keith Urban welcomed daughter Faith via surrogacy in 2010.

**Jordana Brewster**

The "Fast and the Furious" actress welcomed sons Julian and Rowan via surrogacy with husband Andrew Form.

**Sarah Jessica Parker**

The "Divorce" actress and husband Matthew Broderick turned to gestational surrogacy after the birth of son James Wilkie. In 2009 they welcomed twins Marion and Tabitha.

**Tyra Banks**

After failed IVF treatments, Banks and her then-boyfriend Erik Asla welcomed son York Banks Asla via surrogate in January 2016.



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Seth Rogen is the comedy genius behind everything from Pumbaa's voice (in the upcoming live-action "Lion King") to each iteration of "Kung Fu Panda." Not to mention "The Interview," which drew the U.S. as close to war with North Korea as possible — pre-Trump, that is.

His latest (as producer) is "Future Man," a new Hulu series about a janitor who lives with his parents who is destined to save the world because of his epic score on a computer game. It's the apocalypse, but funny.

What is it about the world ending that is so appealing?

I think everyone likes to hallucinate about what might happen at that moment. As a child, I would think about what it would be like to have the ability to end the world. As an adult, I've been fascinated by the subject and it's great to do comedy about something that terrifies everyone.

Was "Future Man" always meant to be a series?

It was conceived first as a movie. But almost at the end we realized that it worked more as a pilot of something that we were interested in seeing later.

How did you decide

on Josh Hutcherson as the star?

A couple of years ago we made a movie called "The Disaster Artist" — Josh had a very small role there, but was really funny. I was impressed by his ability to give so much laughter in such a short time.

Do you worry about falling into tropes when you delve back into the world of the '80s and '90s?



"Future Man" stars Eliza Coupe (from the future) and Josh Hutcherson (the janitor-turned-hero).

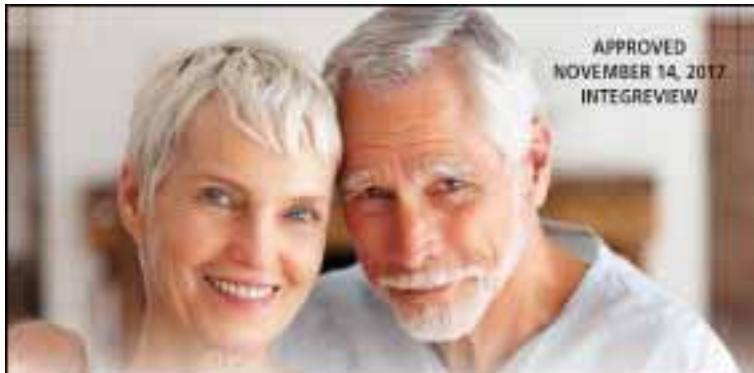
HULU

I always use things that I've grown up with. Pop culture from the '80s and '90s will always be in my projects. Yes, I must say that there are films that I always return to and, in fact, are the ones that prompted me to do this. Some of them are Pulp Fiction or Reservoir Dogs, both by Quentin Tarantino. References aren't things we think about a lot because they come out naturally — they're

elements that we grew up with.

What are your dream roles?

I want to be in "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit." I'd like to join the police unit because I think I have everything it takes to be good. In every episode I see, I feel I can help. [Laughs]



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Your guide to the Dyker Heights Xmas Lights

How to get lit at NYC's most epic holiday display.



KATE MOONEY
@yatinybrooklyn
kate.mooney@metro.us

Every year during the holidays, Dyker Heights transforms into the most lit neighborhood in New York City. Literally. Once Thanksgiving is toast, the residents of the South Brooklyn enclave go all out with festive lights, blow-up Rudolphs, life-size nativity scenes, Christmas music on blast and anything else you can imagine in an extremely extra holiday display.

Seeing the Dyker Heights Christmas lights has arguably become as much of a NYC holiday tradition as going to the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree lighting or strolling Manhattan's over-the-top Fifth Avenue window displays.



Seeing the Dyker Heights Christmas Lights is as much of a NYC holiday tradition as the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree lighting. GETTY IMAGES

The only deterrent is that it's a bit of a trek if you don't already live in South Brooklyn. But we believe in your ability to get your grown self down there and celebrate the reason for the season. Here's everything you need to know to do so.

Where is it exactly?
You'll find the holiday

mecca between 11th and 13th Aves and 83rd and 86th Streets in Dyker Heights, located between Bay Ridge and Bensonhurst.

How to get there
While you'd think driving is the best option, traffic and parking tends to be a headache, so it might be best to find a car alterna-

tive. Via subway, take a Brooklyn-bound D train to 71st Street, and then it's about a 15-minute uphill walk from there. Or ride the B4 bus to Bay Ridge Parkway and 12th Ave. to get a bit closer. You can always bike there. And if you're feeling adventurous, you could ride the NYC Ferry to the Bay Ridge Ferry

Terminal and then it's a 10-minute Lyft, 15 minute bike ride, or half-hour bus ride. Be sure to arrive well before 9 p.m., when residents tend to turn their lights off.

Take a tour
If you go on your own, it's free and you can take in the opulence at your own pace. But if you're

hoping to learn a bit more about the history of the tradition and the neighborhood, you might opt for a guided tour. There are a few slots left on the *Slice of Brooklyn* bus tour, (\$50/adults, \$40/kids) which shuttles passengers from Manhattan every night in December except Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve. There's also *Free Tours by Foot*, which offers pay-what-you-wish (or \$2 donation to *Toys for Tots*) walking tours at 7 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday through Dec. 15, then daily through Dec. 30. There are a handful of tickets (\$35) left for *New York Adventure Club*'s guided walking tour, Dec. 28 at 7 p.m.

Pro tip: The spectacle is best enjoyed with a thermos of hot chocolate or a warm boozy treat.

The Dyker Heights Christmas Lights are on display through New Year's Eve. For tour info, visit freetoursbyfoot.com, nyadventureclub.com.

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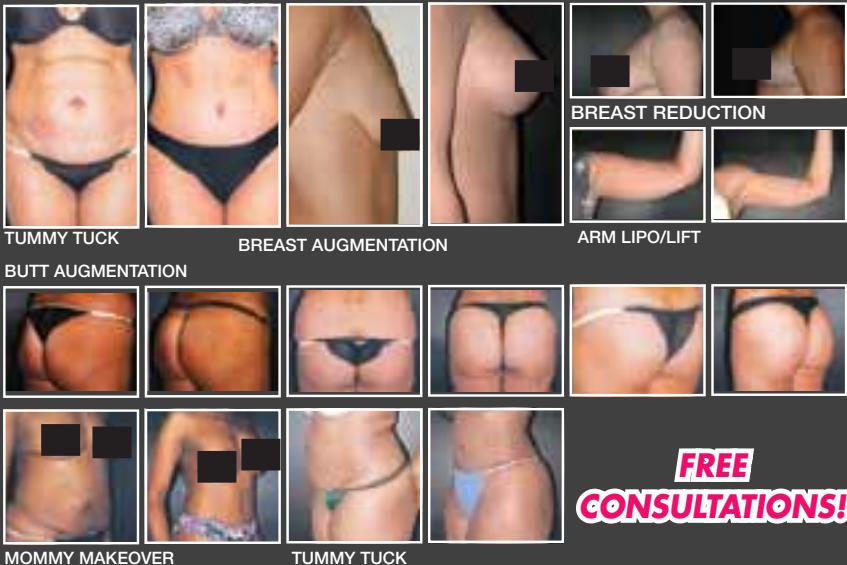
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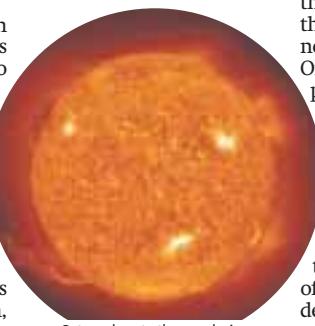
The big-deal opening of the year for science nerds is the Jennifer Chalsty Planetarium, now open at New Jersey's Liberty Science Center.

Located 30 minutes from Lower Manhattan, the planetarium is not only the largest in the country, it's the fourth largest in the world.

"You can fit any other planetarium in the Western Hemisphere inside the Jennifer Chalsty Planetarium," says Paul Hoffman, the science center's president and CEO.

"Visitors will be able to fly through the universe, experience the grandness and vastness of space, roam planetary surfaces, navigate asteroid fields, and watch the latest full-dome movies."

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Shows include a 45-minute journey all the way to the edge of space as seen by NASA probes and a half-hour tour of our own solar system, from the valleys of Mars to the methane geysers of Neptune's moon Triton. At the end of every show,



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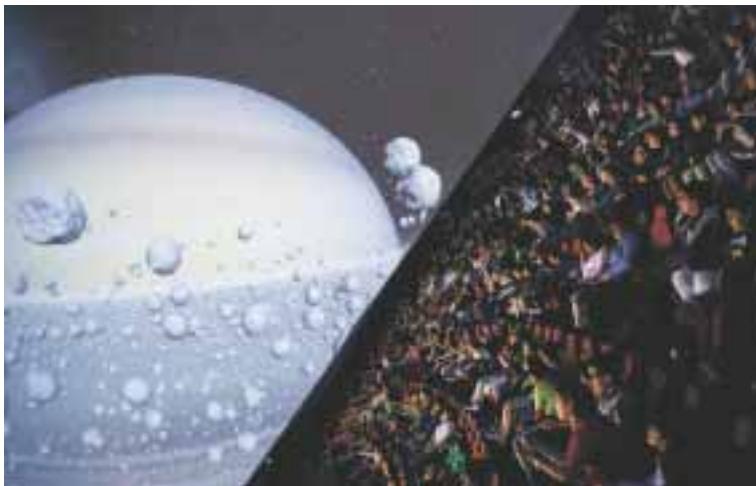
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The Jennifer Chalsty Planetarium will host tours of the universe as well as movies and a laser show. **LIBERTY SCIENCE CENTER**

a live astronomer will present the latest astronomy news and discoveries.

The Chalsty will also show two movies, one about life aboard an aircraft carrier and another tracing the history of China. For the holiday season, there's a themed laser light show.

To welcome its new attraction, the museum is throwing a monthlong Cosmic Celebration of space-themed events and exhibits through Jan. 1.

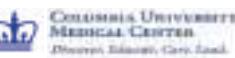
Grown-up visitors get run of the science center every third Thursday of the month for LCS After Dark. The 21+ nights (6-10 p.m.) include drinks, food, music and special events.

The next one coming up on Dec. 21 is Science, Sweets & Ugly Sweaters — come dressed in your holiday worst and get bites from local vendors at a \$5 night market.

The Liberty Science Center's 300,000 square feet also include 12 ex-

hibit halls, an aquarium and a 3D theater. It's also the new home of the traveling Starfleet Academy Experience through May 28, 2018.

Liberty Science Center is located in Liberty State Park, 222 Jersey City Blvd., Jersey City, New Jersey. It's open Tuesdays through Sundays; admission including a theater show starts at \$28.75 for adults and \$23.75 for kids. For more information, visit lsc.org/theaters.



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Using humanity as a marketing tool

The firm #paid pairs companies with web influencers to help appeal to followers. **ISTOCK**

How social-media influencers have changed the face of advertising.



PAT KING
@MetroNewYork
patrick.king@metro.us

In our fast-paced ADD-driven society, one thing

has become abundantly clear: Traditional advertising is not as effective as it used to be.

People do not trust those old "Mad Men" style

ad placements designed by big agencies in order to cram products down our throats. The buyer-seller relationship used to be involuntary, to some degree. After all, did anyone really enjoy Sea Monkeys, Chia Pets or the musical stylings of the Baha Men? The short answer is: No. Today, people can see these bulls—t boardroom tactics for what they really are and choose to engage more actively with social-media influencers to get recommendations on everyday products.

Influencers are everyday people turned huge sensations online. By using platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat, these e-famous folks are paid to post about their favorite products to their throngs of followers. This trend has revolutionized the marketing industry and you can attribute it to one central belief: Everyday people respond to humanity. More people will buy something a "friend" recommends than an actual Kardashian.

CSO Adam Rivietz recognized this and co-founded his firm, #Paid, to help companies pair up with popular web influencers in order to help sell products to followers. These companies aren't rinky-dink mom and pops, either; #Paid has worked with some of the biggest brands out there, like Coca-Cola, Microsoft, and Airbnb.

So why do these huge international names look for regular people to sell their products instead of, say, celebrities?

"[Celebrities] are trying to parlay their real-world fame online, whereas an influencer's entire fame was built online," explains Rivietz, "across the board even if you compare a traditional celebrity with an influencer, of the same follower count, the engagement rates are always higher from an influencer. It's because of that personal relationship, because you've seen them grow and because they're more relatable."

One of #Paid's biggest success stories is Christian Collins, aka @WeeklyChris. Once a shy teen from the west coast of Canada, Collins started posting videos on YouTube and gained a huge following. He now has 3.6 million followers on Instagram and 1.69 million followers on Twitter and multiple endorsements from companies that pay him to post his recommendations to his followers that value his opinion.

"In terms of branding, it works very well when there's a natural, organic relationship with the brand," Collins says, "because there's such an intimate relationship with my followers, and it's something I genuinely enjoy, it would be like your best friend recommending something."

Rivietz believes that if

a brand has to choose between a self-made social-media-savvy influencer, like Collins, or a busy celebrity who could change their brand allegiance overnight, the choice is a no-brainer. "Influencers are content creators first. That's why they've risen to the top of social media," says Rivietz, "because they create this incredible content that actually resonates with an audience and that arguably speaks to a brand's target audience better than the brand knows how to speak to them."

The company represents only influencers who have a minimum of 5,000 followers on their platforms but they find that influencers that have 25,000 to 250,000 followers have proved time and time again to be able to give their clients a good return on investment. After all, phones are the new billboards and as Rivietz sees it, influencers like Collins are the new Don Draper.

"What Instagram has become is our new magazine," he says. "You get to pick whatever type of content you want and just like you used to flick pages through a magazine you are now flicking through your feed. You can make your own subscriptions by following these influencers. The invention of social media has made it possible for anyone to have a voice and gain a large following."

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Eli Manning was decent in his return as starting quarterback of the Giants, throwing for 228 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions. GETTY IMAGES

Eli returns, but familiar 'L' for Giants

The Cowboys dumped the Giants late, 30-10.



KRISTIAN DYER
@KristianRDyer
sports@metro.us

Tight for much of the game, three touchdowns inside the final eight minutes of the fourth quarter lifted the Dallas Cowboys to a 30-10 win over the New York Giants on Sunday at MetLife Stadium. With the loss, the hapless Giants are now 2-11.

In their first game under interim head coach Steve Spagnuolo, the Giants showed life and enthusiasm despite a score line that would indicate a blowout. The Giants kept things close for much of the game as the two teams were knotted up at 10 for much of the second half.

But eventually, the play-makers on the Cowboys broke through.

With the win, the Cowboys saw their slim playoff hopes improve as their record bumped up to 7-6.

The Giants did have some struggles moving the ball but they limited turnovers and mistakes, things that have been costly and have plagued them much of this year. In Eli Manning's return as the starting quarterback, the Giants were able to move the ball but struggled to sustain drives.

The four-time Pro Bowl quarterback was 31-of-46 for 228 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions.

Tied 10-10 midway through the fourth quarter, Dak Prescott hung in the pocket well, finding Cole Beasley on a flat route. The Cowboys wide

receiver cut and weaved for a 54-yard reception through the heart of the Giants secondary before being tackled at the 20 yard-line. On the next play, Prescott hit tight end Jason Witten over the top for a touchdown and what would become a 17-10 lead for the Cowboys.

The Cowboys' next possession was capped off by running back Rod Smith's 81-yard catch and run, again through the heart of the Giants secondary.

Here are three things we learned about the Giants Sunday:

Good to be back

With Manning under center, the Giants certainly seemed to have a bit of confidence back, the veteran barking out audibles and systematically moving the Giants

down the field in the first half.

All told, it was a solid game for Manning, showing well one week after being benched. It is crystal clear that the Giants struggles on offense aren't his fault at this point. His two interceptions both came with the Giants trailing and desperately trying to move the ball. Hard to pin either interception on him given the circumstances.

Steady Spags

In his first game as interim head coach of the Giants, Spagnuolo had a good, though somewhat plodding gameplan. The big takeaway is that he had his team focused and ready to play. Unlike the past few weeks where the Giants seemed to lack a spark, this young team fared well and

thing Spagnuolo can't control at this juncture.

Good rookie

In the most extended action of his young NFL career, running back Wayne Gallman looked good. Gallman, with just 271 rushing yards this whole year on 66 carries, showed flashes of potential but never got a real prolonged run of snaps.

In an extended run on Sunday, Gallman was more than solid. He moved well and was patient waiting for holes to develop, cutting well. While he missed a big hole once or twice, he was overall reliable — something that one of the worst rushing offenses in the league could surely get used to.

Gallman led the Giants in rushing with 12 carries for 59 yards and showed some good elusiveness in the process.

NFL Roundup

Bills 13, Colts 7
Cowboys 30, Giants 10
Lions 24, Buccaneers 21
Packers 27, Browns 21
Chiefs 26, Raiders 15
Panthers 31, Vikings 24
Bears 33, Bengals 7
49ers 26, Texans 16

hung with a team in the hunt for the playoffs.

The defense was buzzing for three quarters, even with players dropping in and out of the game due to injuries and getting banged up. The offense stuck to their simple if somewhat boring plan to run the ball and sprinkle in some screens. Unlike his predecessor, Spagnuolo seemed to have a pulse on the sideline and showed it. The team lacked big plays and playmakers down the stretch, though, some-

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Josh McCown was under pressure from the Denver defense all afternoon. GETTY IMAGES

Jets thumped by the Broncos

The Jets dropped to 5-8 on the season thanks to a 23-0 loss in Denver.

TONY WILLIAMS
@MetroNewYork
sports@metro.us

The New York Jets just can't stand prosperity, and they've shown that time and again this season. But Sunday's 23-0 defeat to the woeful

Denver Broncos was the epitome of Gang Green not being able to take advantage of what should've been a gimme win.

Heading into the season, the Broncos (4-9) were thought to be a legit playoff contender, while the Jets (5-8) were thought to be pretenders. But as the season unfolded, it was the Broncos that faded after a 3-1 start, while Gang Green seemed to gain steam with each surprisingly competitive week. Even after close defeats, the Jets seemed to be on track, had players openly talking about the playoff race in the locker room, and gave their long-suffering faithful hope.

Alas, Sunday's lackluster performance in Denver pulled the rug from under their fans' feet, brought them back to reality, and all but ended any hopes of a postseason march.

The Jets came out flat and stayed flat-line for the entire game. Quarterback Josh McCown was coming off an AFC Offensive Player of the Week performance, but he was a non-factor in Denver before bowing out with a left hand injury at the 2:54 mark of the third quarter. Backup Bryce Petty was awful in relief, but even when McCown was on the field, the Jets' of-

fense looked lost. McCown finished 6-of-12 for 46 yards and an interception before being finished off by a suddenly rejuvenated Broncos pass rush. His first half consisted of three completions and two turnovers. Petty went 2-of-9 for 14 yards and has likely shown the Jets' brass that he cannot be entrusted to take the reins once McCown rides off into the sunset. The situation that Petty was thrown into obviously wasn't ideal for any quarterback, let alone a career backup, but he looked very poor in the limited sample size that he provided.

The quarterback play wasn't the only regression this week, as it was a total team defeat — shocking, considering the Jets' wild card life was on the line. Yet the team put together arguably its worst showing of the season — and that includes that dreadful loss in Tampa when the Buccaneers were without its starting quarterback (Jameis Winston) and top receiver (Mike Evans), and journeyman quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick led the way for the Buccaneers.

Gang Green's defense was just as uninspiring, as it couldn't slow down Broncos quarterback Trevor Siemian, or contain wideout Demaryius Thomas.



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